

the budget process, we must continue this effort and eliminate wasteful joint House-Senate committees.

Mr. Speaker, I commend you for your efforts to pare down the size of the legislative branch and improve efficiency. Let us take another relatively easy step toward balancing the budget by eliminating the Joint Economic Committee 1 year early. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and save the taxpayers \$3 million.

INDIAN TRIBES MUST ALSO HAVE A SEAT AT THE TABLE

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 1995

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today that would add native American representation to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Since its inception in 1959, this Commission which is composed of governmental officials from all levels of government has never included representatives from the oldest existing governments in this country—American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. The bill that I am introducing today will correct this egregious omission.

Federally recognized Indian tribes maintain a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Since the formation of this Nation the Congress, the courts, and the executive have recognized the sovereign status of Indian tribes and through treaties, Executive orders, and other means have dealt with tribes on a government-to-government basis. Furthermore, the United States has undertaken a solemn trust responsibility with respect to the protection and enhancement of the native American tribes.

It is almost shocking, but yet not surprising, that the more than 550 native American tribes in our country have been overlooked by the Commission for 36 years. My bill would expand the number of members on the Commission from 26 to 30 by adding 4 native American tribal officials to be appointed by the President from a list of 8 candidates selected by the House Committee on Resources and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Because the Governors and mayors each have four representatives on the Commission, it seems that four is an appropriate number of representatives for Indian country as well.

Mr. Speaker, for too long we have neglected to invite our native American tribal leaders to be active and meaningful participants in our democratic form of government. In order for the Commission to truly fulfill its purpose of bringing together the various forms of government for consideration of common problems, Indian tribes must also have a seat at the table.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM C. DEE

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 1995

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a highly respected and dedicated public servant who has retired after 36 years of service to his country.

During his tenure with the Federal civil service, William Dee was regarded as one of the world's foremost authorities on chemical weapons and chemical warfare. His expertise in the various techniques that produce chemical agents and munitions has benefited both the United States and countries throughout the world. At one point in his career, William Dee found himself in an unprecedented role when he guided and directed the U.S. Army's technical and scientific support to chemical and biological arms control.

Mr. Dee's extensive knowledge and ability to work harmoniously with policymakers helped shape the Chemical Weapons Convention, which allowed U.S. national security and industrial interests to be given significant attention. During the course of his career, William Dee's efforts had a profound impact on the chemical weapons community, the Department of Defense, and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing William Dee as an exemplary American who has served his community with skilled devotion for 36 years. He has left a proud legacy for future generations to follow.

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD CUBA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, on May 8, 1995, I wrote to President Clinton concerning the May 1995 migration agreement between the United States and Cuba in the context of overall United States policy toward Cuba.

On June 4, 1995, I received a reply from President Clinton. The text of the correspondence follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, May 8, 1995.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON,

The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write with regard to last week's migration agreement between the United States and Cuba. I am concerned that this policy change treats only one aspect of Cuba policy and does not address the central policy problems.

For it to be successful, U.S. policy toward Cuba requires more than returning Cuban migrants interdicted at sea to Cuba. Instead of limiting policy changes to migration issues, the United States should reach out to the Cuban people in an attempt to make their lives better, decrease their incentive to emigrate, and enhance the chances for a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba.

I commend you for your recent comments on U.S. Cuba policy. I welcome the adminis-

tration's opposition to key provisions of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1995. I also have been encouraged by your recent comments, and those of administration officials, which have stressed the importance of having a robust "Track II" to U.S. Cuba policy. I agree with you that additional pressure on Cuba could likely result in violent change, unleashing the kind of migration your new policy is designed to discourage.

Now is the time to take definitive steps to increase contact between the citizens of the United States and Cuba and attempt to lessen their hardship. It is not the time for attempts at further isolating Cuba. These steps should include: Restoring pre-August 1994 remittance and travel guidelines for Cuban-Americans; allowing for greater travel and contact between all U.S. citizens and the people of Cuba; and pushing for news bureau exchanges between the U.S. and Cuba.

Such initiatives would be positive steps toward advancing the central goal of U.S. Cuba policy—a peaceful transition to democracy. The steps could also help discourage Cubans from taking to the seas. Taking those steps and eliciting reciprocal actions by Cuba also could lead to the process of carefully calibrated responses to Cuban actions emphasized in recent comments by administration officials.

I look forward to working with you on this matter.

With best regards,
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, June 3, 1995.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEE: Thank you for your letter on United States policy toward Cuba.

It has been one of our long-standing goals to regularize our migration relationship with Cuba. This will enable the United States to better control its borders. It will ensure that Cubans do not take to the sea in unseaworthy rafts at great peril to their lives. Finally, by resolving an issue Castro has long used to distract us, it will allow the United States to focus on its central goal of promoting a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. The recent migration agreements advance these objectives.

I share your belief that we must help the Cuban people in their struggle for democratic reform and human rights, and we now are in a position to do just that. Consistent with Track II of the Cuban Democracy Act, we already have taken steps to increase the flow of information, improve telecommunications and license private humanitarian aid to Cuba. I am committed to assisting opposition leaders, free-thinking intellectuals, churches and human rights groups in their efforts to push for meaningful political and economic change.

With regard to your specific proposals, we continue to review whether the measures in place serve our objective of encouraging peaceful economic and political change. Any actions we take will be consistent with that goal and with the two-track approach of the Cuban Democracy Act.

As usual, I appreciate your thoughtful comments on this issue.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON.